

Appln. No.: 10/522,044
Amendment Dated August 2, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of July 13, 2007

PC10483US

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace the drawing sheet containing Fig. 1 with the attached replacement drawing sheet. No new matter has been added.

Attachment

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 15-20 and 22-26 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated July 13, 2007 ("Office Action"), Applicants' Figure 1 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Claims 15-20 and 22-26 were considered anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,602,791 ("Zollner") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The Office Action and references cited therein have been carefully considered. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, and the remarks submitted in Applicants' previous replies, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as explained below.

Drawing

Applicants gratefully appreciate the Examiner's guidance with respect to the drawing figure. The Examiner's suggestion of removing lines "Y" and "Z" from the figure has been implemented to reflect the circular geometry. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants are amending independent claims 15, 16 and 24 in the interest of advancing prosecution, to further clarify the claimed subject matter. The amendments are in no way intended to represent a concession to the rejections set forth in the Office Action, as the Applicants maintain their disagreement with the interpretation given by the Office Action to the word "groove" and the disclosure of Zollner. Applicants reserve their right to challenge these matters whether or not agreement is reached with respect to the presently pending claims.

Claims 15, 16 and 24, as amended, recite a wall surface along the bore of a cylinder, the wall surface comprising a first sidewall extending parallel to a longitudinal axis of the bore, a second sidewall contiguous with the first sidewall and extending generally perpendicularly to the first sidewall, a third sidewall contiguous with the second sidewall and extending generally parallel to the first sidewall, a fourth sidewall contiguous with the third sidewall and extending generally parallel to the second sidewall, and a fifth sidewall contiguous with the fourth sidewall and extending generally parallel to the first sidewall along the bore, the second, third and fourth sidewalls being parts of one unitary body and forming or bordering a groove that is recessed in the wall surface, the sealing collar being positioned in the groove.

The cited references do not disclose a groove and sealing collar as recited in claims 15, 16 and 24. Therefore, claims 15, 16 and 24 are believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 17-20, 22 and 23 are dependent on claim 16 and incorporate all the features recited in claim 16. Therefore, claims 17-20, 22 and 23 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 16 is allowable.

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Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in form for allowance. If the Examiner has any concern which precludes allowance at this time, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 610-407-0700 to discuss any such concern.

Respectfully submitted,



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RPS/CAR/dhm

Attachment: 1 drawing sheet

Dated: August 2, 2007

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

August 2, 2007

